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Milwaukee County
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**STATEMENT BY MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SCOTT WALKER ON
HOLLOWAY'S RESPONSE TO SALES TAX VETO**

Frankly, the Chairman of the County Board made some very odd arguments against a Park District today. Let's look at his statements and compare facts:

Holloway's release said that the proposed .5% sales tax would preserve our park system by taking it off the property tax.

FACT: In 1991, a majority of the Milwaukee County Board passed a resolution enacting a .5% sales tax that would be used for property tax relief. Yet, from 1992 to 2002, property taxes went up 52% in Milwaukee County.

Holloway's release said that a Park District wouldn't save a dime.

FACT: Holloway's solution is a sales tax increase that will cost local taxpayers \$60 million more in 2007 while a Park District would be tax neutral.

Holloway's release said that a Park District would be like the stadium district without citizen input or access to their elected officials.

FACT: Unlike the Stadium District, MMSD or MATC, the proposed Park District would be made up of 9 non-paid and elected commissioners who would have direct access to voters.

Holloway's release complained about the lack of county control over operations and spending in the parks.

FACT: From 1980 to 2000, the amount of tax levy support from the county for parks dropped from 45% to under 10%. Thanks to the approval of the pension deal in November 2000, the county has a pension contribution of \$59 million in 2007, which leaves less for the parks. The Chairman is right on this one; it is about giving control of the parks back to the people and taking it away from county control.

The Chairman's answer is to raise taxes \$60 million to spend on a system that is still burdened by the pension benefits and unfunded state mandates. Our solution is to create a new system modeled after the successful systems in other states that safely removes the parks from the perils of county control.

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